A BRIEF RELATION OF THE Just and Undeniable TITLE OF ALPHONSO THE SIXTH. KING of *PORTUGAL*, Now Reigning, 1661.

Warranted By the Fundamental Laws of that Nation.

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Printed at *London*, and Re-printed at *Edinburgh*, 1661.

A brief Relation of the juſt Title of *Alphonſo*, now King of *Portugal*.

IT is the opinion of many, that the Right and Title to the Crown of *Portugal* reſides in the Kings of *Spain*, an Errour ſpringing either from their not knowing the Genealogies of thoſe Princes, or from an apprehenſion that ſixty years poſſeſſion by the *Auſtrian* Family could make a Title indubitable, which was never warranted by right of blood, or by the Laws of *Portugal*. It is true, *Philip* the Second, who ſeized upon that Kingdom, was the Son of a *Portugal* Princeſs, but ſhe had a Brother, whoſe iſſue yet remains, and from whom deſcends the preſent King of *Portugal*, who being deſcended from a Brother, muſt be preferred before the iſſue of the Siſter, the Male being adjudged the better by all the Laws of Chriſtendom, though perhaps among the Amazons the Laws were otherwiſe. But to make good this Title, I muſt run back to the beginning of the *Portugal* Monarchy, and preſent you with ſome of their Fundamental Laws, whoſe Authority can never be gainſaid.

In the Year 1139. *Don Alphonſo*, General of the *Portugal* Army, then ready to encounter with five *Mahometan* Kings, commanding an Army of four hundred thouſand *Moors*, was unanimouſly ſaluted King, which Legion of

Locusts by his courage and conduct were put to flight, and easily became the first Trophies to this conquering King. And now the angry storm of War blown over, the King betakes himself to the Arts of Peace, to make good Laws, which was done by assembling the three Estates in the City of *Lamego*, where were enacted many Laws, which they justly account their Fundamentals, as unalterable as those of the *Medes* and *Persians*, made Sacred by the observation of them both by Prince and People, to the holy tye of which they both oblieg'd their Faith; these Laws then are the ground on which we build, and from whence we shall easily justifie the undoubted Title of the now King of *Portugal*.

First, it was Enacted, that his Son, and Grandson, and so forward, should reign after him *in secula seculorum*, but if the King have only Daughters, the Eldest should be Queen after her Father, upon condition she be married to a Native of *Portugal*, and that he be a Nobleman, who shall not take upon him the name of a King, untill he hath a Son born, nor wear a Crown on his head, nor take the right hand of his Wife.

But that which I insist on, is the last clause which I shall faithfully transcribe.

Sit ista Lex in sempiternum, quod Prima Filia Regis accipiat maritum de Portugale, ut non veniat regnum ad Extraneos; & si casaverit cum Principe extraneo, non sit Regina: quia nunquam volumus nostrum Regnum ire de Portu-

Let it be a Law for ever, that the Kings Eldest Daughter marry a Native of *Portugal*, that so the Crown may never descend to Strangers; and in case she should marry a Prince that is a Stranger, let her not be Queen: for we will never have our Kingdom go out of the Race of

Portugalenſibus qui nos ſua fortitudine Reges fecerunt, ſine adjutorio alieno, per ſuam fortitudinem & cum ſanguine ſuo.	of the *Portugals*, who have made us Kings by their own Valour, without forreign aſſiſtance, by their own valour, and with the effuſion of their own blood.

This Law was put in execution after the death of *Fernando* the ninth King of that Race; for *Donna Beatrice* his Daughter, being married to a forreign Prince, was excluded, and King *John* the Firſt was advanced to the Throne, from whom deſcended *Emmanuel* the fourteenth King, who had ſix Sons and two Daughters.

1. *Don John*, afterwards King, Father of *John* Prince of *Portugal*, Father of *Sebaſtian*, King of *Portugal*, ſlain in *Affrica*, 1578. without iſſue.

2 Son was *Don Lewis*, who left no iſſue Legitimate.

3 Son *Don Fernando*, who died without iſſue.

4 Son *Don Alphonſo* Cardinal, Archbiſhop of *Lisbon*, and Abbot of *Alcobaza*, never married.

5 Son *Don Henry*, Cardinal, and Archbiſhop of *Braga*, afterwards King.

6 Son *Don Edward*, who left two Daughters, the Eldeſt was *Mary*, married out of the Kingdom to *Alexander* Duke of *Parma*; the Younger was *Katherine*, married in *Portugal* to *John* Duke of *Braganza*, Grandfather of *John* the Fourth, King of *Portugal*, Father of *Alphonſo* now reigning.

Of King *Emmanuels* two Daughters, the Eldeſt was married to the Emperour *Charles* the 5th. Father of *Philip* the Second, King of *Spain*, Grandfather of *Philip* the Fourth, from whom it was regained by the Right Heir.

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The youngeſt Daughter of *Emmanuel* King of *Portugal* was married to the Duke of *Savoy*, Father of *Philip* Duke of *Savoy*.

After the death of King *Sebaſtian*, ſlain as aforeſaid without Iſſue, the Crown of *Portugal* fell to his great Uncle, *Henry* the Cardinal, at 67. years of age, who ſweyed the Scepter two years, and died unmarried: Now the Maſculine Race of *Emmanuel* being extinct, the Female, according to the Fundamental Laws of *Lamego*, were to ſucceed.

There were ſeveral Pretenders, as *Philip* the Second of *Spain*, whoſe Mother was daughter to *Emmanuel*, and the Duke of *Savoy*, deſcended from the youngeſt Daughter of *Emmanuel*, and both of them could but pretend a Title, for they had no Right.

The True and Undoubted Right reſted in the Children of Don *Edward*, one of the Sons of *Emmanuel* as aforeſaid, and Brother to the King of *Spains* Mother, and the Duke of *Parma*'s the fore-mentioned Pretenders. He left, as we ſaid, two Daughters, *Mary*, the Eldeſt, married to the Duke of *Parma*; and *Katherine*, the Youngeſt, to the Duke of *Braganza*, *Rainuccio* Prince of *Parma*, though the Son of the Eldeſt Daughter of Prince *Edward*, could not ſucceed, becauſe his Mother was married out of *Portugal*; for the Fundamental Laws, which were thoſe of *Lamego*, as upon the Failer of the Male Line, they made the Female capable of Succeſſion, did it with this reſtriction, that they ſhould be married within *Portugal*, if they married any Forreign Prince, they ſhould have no Right in the Succeſſion, which was barr'd by this Match of Princeſs *Mary* with the Duke of *Parma*, an *Italian*, and it was great reaſon that this Law, which was twin-born with the Monarchy of *Portugal*, ſhould be juſt-

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ly observed; and was so, after the death of Don *Fernando*, the 9th. King, whose Daughter was excluded the Succession, by vertue of this Law of *Lamego*, which both Prince and People were sworn to observe; nor can any think it hard measure to the Dukes of *Parma*, to be excluded the Succession to the Crown, being descended of Prince *Edwards* Eldest Daughter, and that the Duke of *Braganza*, descended of the Younger Daughter, who married with a Native of *Portugal*, should have the undoubted Right: For had it not been for that Law, which excludes the Daughter of *Portugal*, if married to a stranger, *Emmanuel* (the Father of Prince *Edward*, from whom the Duke of *Parma* claimes) had never been King, but it had gone with the Daughter of *Fernando* the 9th. King of *Portugal*, justly excluded by their Laws, for marrying with a Forreigner; and the posterity of the Eldest Daughter cannot quarrel with this Clause in the Law of *Lamego*, seing it was that very Clause, and that alone, that brought the Sovereignty to the Line of *Emmanuel*, from whom the Prince of *Parma* descends. *Katherine* the Youngest Daughter of Prince *Edward*, marryed to the Duke of *Braganza*, a Native of *Portugal*, could only lay a just claim to the Crown. But *Philip* the Second, of *Spain*, though he could not pretend so far as the Duke of *Parma*, as being descended from a Daughter, whose Brothers Heirs must in all reason be preferred before hers, yet to acquire a Kingdom, which might joyn the whole Continent of *Spain* together in one hand, he dis-inherits all Right, and by his Martial Favourite the Duke of *Alva*, invades *Portugal* with an Army, marching directly towards *Lisbon*, where wisely striking at the Head, he brought a whole Kingdom on their Knees, and receives a Crown, adorned with the richest Jewels of the East,

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(that Nation having many rich Factories there) which happned in the Year, 1580. Being thus poſſeſt, he left it to his Son *Philip* 3d and he to *Philip* 4th till the Year 1640. When on a ſudden, not only *Portugal*, but the Iſlands and Territories thereunto belonging (*Ceuta* in *Barbary* excepted) fell from the *Spaniard* like a Dream, and awakened its old Glory and Freedom, in the Perſon of the Duke of *Braganza* (Grandſon of that Duke of *Braganza* that married *Katherine*, Daughter of Prince *Edward*, Son of *Emmanuel*, King of *Portugal*) then preſently proclaimed by the Name of *John* the 4th, King of *Portugal*, and ſo own'd by all Princes, whom the *Auſtrian* Greatneſs did not over-awe; who dying, left his Crown deſcending by a Juſt and Undoubted Title to *Alphonſo* the Sixth, now King of *Portugal*.

FINIS.